

From: [Governor Jay Inslee](#)
To: [AllState Employees](#)
Subject: Budget negotiation update
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Dear fellow state employees,

With less than two weeks remaining in the state's current two-year budget cycle, the Legislature has yet to reach agreement on operating and capital budgets for the next two years. If budgets are not enacted by June 30, state agencies will have to implement full or partial shutdowns.

I want you to know that we are working hard to help the House and Senate reach agreement. While important differences remain between their versions, the differences can be bridged with a commitment to compromise. While compromise is always difficult, the differences between the chambers are not sufficient enough, in my view, to justify a shutdown of state services to the people of Washington. All parties need to reach middle ground.

While I remain optimistic that the budgets will be passed in time and no shutdowns will be necessary, state agencies have prepared contingency plans to identify which services will be suspended if the Legislature misses its deadline. We have legal and contractual obligations to notify our employees, contractors and the people we serve of the potential for such a shutdown.

In the next few days, many of you will be receiving notices about possible temporary layoffs. I understand and truly regret the anxiety and uncertainty this creates for you, your families and the people you serve. We have been conferencing with agencies weekly on contingency planning and next steps. We will continue to work closely with your agencies to keep you informed.

The Legislature has passed a transportation budget, so many of our colleagues in transportation agencies avoid the unfortunate prospect of a shutdown. There are general fund positions in some transportation agencies. For example, most State Patrol employees and some Licensing employees are funded in the transportation budget, but WSP and DOL would still face temporary layoffs in some operating budget-funded positions.

As state employees, you know firsthand how disruptive a shutdown would be for the millions of Washingtonians who rely on the services state government provides. But let me reiterate: the Legislature can, and I believe will, get its budget work done before July 1 — and my team is doing everything possible to help make sure that happens.

On behalf of all Washingtonians, thank you for the work you do. I hope to be back in touch soon with good news about our state budget.

Very truly yours,
Jay Inslee